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Monthly Progress Report No. 69

Submitted to: Mr. Frank Battaglia, Project Manager
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RCRA RECORDS CENTER
FACILITY: Ciba Geigy Corp
I.D. NO. RID00194323
FILE LOC. R-5
OTHER

Pursuant to: RCRA I-88-1088

Facility Site: Cranston, RI

Period Covered: March 1996 (March 2, 1996 - March 29, 1996) through
fourth Friday of the month.

Date Submitted: April 3, 1996

1.0 SUMMARY

This is the sixty ninth monthly progress report. There were three areas of significant activity this month:

- **Stabilization IRM** - The groundwater extraction wells and the pretreatment system operated continuously during March with no problems. The Soil Vapor Extraction System (SVE) was not put into operation because the system needs further software programming to provide for automated safety shutdown. However, all automation (controls and sensors) equipment are now in place such that, after the software is updated, the SVE should be operating in early April.
- **Sediment Removal IRM** - The draft report is being significantly revised and upgraded to a "stand alone" document similar to the soil IRM and will be submitted by the end of April.
- **River RFI** - This report consists of three volumes: I The Source/Release Characterization and Summary, II The Aquatic Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment and III The Pawtuxet River Sediment Fate and Transport Model. The Eco Risk Report has undergone significant quality review by PTRL, HydroQual and Ciba.



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lowering the Ecological Toxicity Index (ETI) to credible (10^2) values, by eliminating non-persistent pesticides, questioning the toxic reference values (TRVs) of some organics and establishing background metals and concentrations. The report itself has been clarified by separating the bioassay data from the exposure and risk characterization. All three volumes were submitted on schedule to the USEPA on March 29, 1996.

2.0 Tasks and Activities Completed

Sampling and other task activities are reported here.

2.1 Sampling Activities Completed

On March 4 and 5, Ciba sampled the groundwater in the Production Area for volatiles, semi-volatiles and PCBs to collect current data on the contamination. These results will be available in April for evaluation and submittal to EPA in May, as required.

2.2. Other Activities Completed

The Pawtuext River RFI was submitted March 29, 1996.

3.0 Jeopardy Tasks

As noted in the summary, the SVE system could not be placed into continuous service in late March because the software did not control the system safely. Previous, short trial runs indicate that the SVE can remove significant quantities of toluene from the soil in the vapor phase if the groundwater draw-down is carefully controlled. The SVE should be operating continuous, and effectively by mid April.

4.0 Other Tasks Underway (and on schedule)

Tasks that were underway and on schedule as of March 29, 1996, were described in the 1.0. Summary.

5.0 DATA OBTAINED

Ciba has evaluated the preliminary drawn-down test prepared by Woodward-Clyde, which indicates, based upon past monitoring data, that 80 to 90% of the volatile organic contaminants are being, or should be, captured by the two extraction wells #110 and 120. Sampling of the groundwater influent to the pretreatment plant shows that only about 30 to 50% of the mass is being captured using the last 1992 monitoring well results. Since this discrepancy can not be explained by the assumptions or methodology used, we have re-sampled the groundwater in the Production Area to see if the concentrations have somehow decreased significantly. This information, as noted above, will be available in April.

6.0 PROBLEM AREAS

There are no problems, which are not being resolved, in a timely manner.

7.0 SCHEDULE OF TASKS (next two months)

The following tasks will be started or completed in April and May.

- Determine the Groundwater MPS (April)
- Finish the Sediment Removal IRM Report (April)
- Startup the SVE continuous (April)
- Redefine the Extraction Well System Operation to maximize stabilization and capture (May)
- Start the River CMS Report (April)

8.0 CHANGES IN WORK PLAN

No changes to the Work Plan are proposed at this time; however, we have requested that the Toxicity Indicator Evaluations (TIES) in the Phase II River Study be eliminated based upon the results of the Aquatic Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment, submitted on March 29..

9.0 OTHER COMMENTS

Since the On-Site RFI and CMS were submitted in July and Sept. 1995, respectively, we are anticipating comments from the EPA and RIDEM on these documents.

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